

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /069 W
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R 221145Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8275

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PK, PINT, PFOR, IN, ENRG

SUBJECT: SALAL DAM TALKS: END OF ROUND TWO, ROUND THREE
COMING UP

1. OCOTBER 22 PAKISTAN PRESS CARRIED TEXT OF JOINT
COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER CONCLUSION OF SECOND ROUND OF
INDO-PAK TALKS ON SALAL DAM HELD IN ISLAMABAD OCTOBER 19-21.
DISCUSSIONS WERE DESCRIBED AS COMPREHENSIVE AND AS SUCCESSFUL
IN CREATING BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ONE ANOTHER'S VIEWPOINT,
AS WELL AS IN RESOLVING SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS.
FURTHER STUDY OF TECHNICAL POINTS WILL PRECEDE A THIRD
MEETING. (NO DATE WAS GIVEN FOR THAT SESSION.) COMMUNIQUE
DESCRIBED ATMOSPHERE AS AMICABLE AS THE FIRST ROUND IN
DELHI. FOREIGN SECRETARIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES EXPRESSED
SATISFACTION WITH GENUINE EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE
REMAINING DIFFERENCES IN THE SPIRIT AND UNDER THE LETTER
OF THE INDUS WATERS TREATY OF 1960. BOTH SIDES VOICED THE
HOPE THAT THE THIRD ROUND OF TALKS WOULD PRODUCE MUTUALLY
SATISFACTORY RESULTS ON ALL REMAINING POINTS.

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2. OPTIMISTIC IMPRESSION OF PROSPECTS FOR EVENTUAL
BREAKTHROUGH WHICH COMMUNIQUE PROMPTED WAS FURTHER
STRENGTHENED BY WELL-CONNECTED DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
H.K. BURKI'S FRONT PAGE BYLINE ARTICLE IN OCTOBER 22
PAKISTAN TIMES. BURKI REPORTED THAT ALMOST ALL INDO-PAK
DIFFERENCES REGARDING DESIGN OF SALAL DAM HAVE NOW BEEN
RESOLVED. PAKISTAN ENGINEERS NOW NEED TO STUDY MEASURES
PAKISTAN COULD TAKE IN CASE OF SHORTAGE OF WATER SUPPLY
DURING AN EMERGENCY. HOWEVER, THE MAIN CONCERN OF
PAKISTAN--HOW TO ENSURE THAT THE DAM WILL NOT BE ABLE TO
CAUSE EITHER A SUDDEN FLOOD OR A DROUGHT IN NORTHERN
PUNJAB--HAS NOW BEEN MET TO "A FAIRLY REASONABLE DEGREE."
BURKI CHARACTERIZED THE PROJECT AS INITIAL PRELIMINARY
STAGES (IT WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS).
TO COUNTERACT REPORTS IN URDU PRESS THAT DAM REPRESENTS
THREAT TO PAK SECURITY, BURKI STATED THE DAM WILL BE BUILT
ON THE CHENAB RIVER IN "OCCUPIED" TERRITORY IN KASHMIR,
BUT THERE ARE NO PLANS TO BUILD A STORAGE DAM. NOR DOES
THE PROJECT VIOLATE ANY AGREEMENT SUCH AS THE INDUS
WATERS TREATY OF 1960 (AS ALLEGED BY AN AZAD KASHMIR
CORRESPONDENT OF THE PAK TIMES IN YESTERDAY'S EDITION).
BURKI EXPLAINED THAT THE GOP HAS EXAMINED THE PROJECT
FULLY TO SAFEGUARD PAKISTANI INTERESTS; PAK ENGINEERS
HAVE HELD MANY COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THE DESIGN
TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE NO LOOPHOLES THAT MIGHT ENDANGER
PAKISTAN'S SECURITY. THEREFORE, BURKI CONCLUDES, WHEN THE
TWO FOREIGN SECRETARIES AGAIN MEET THERE IS A FAIR CHANCE
THAT THE ENTIRE ISSUE WILL BE FINALLY RESOLVED.

3. POST WILL REPORT FURTHER FOLLOWING TALKS WITH INDIAN
EMBASSY AND MFA CONTACTS. WE ASSUME THAT THE MFA ACCOUNT
WILL FOLLOW THE BURKI LINE.
BYROAD

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